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IV 2317829

INTERNAL AFFAIRS BUREAU
INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY

CASE NUMBER:	IV 2317829
SUBJECT:	Christopher Carpenter, Deputy, [redacted]
STATION/UNIT/BUREAU:	Operation Safe Streets Bureau, Region II
DATE/TIME/DAY:	August 5, 2012, 0107 Hours, Sunday
LOCATION:	Dike Road, Mohave Valley, AZ Beach #11

Synopsis:

On August 5, 2012, Deputy Christopher Carpenter, [redacted], was arrested in the state of Arizona by the Fort Mohave Tribal Police Department for Disorderly Conduct with a Weapon. While intoxicated, Carpenter recklessly shot a firearm on a tribal owned beach in the vicinity of several adults and children who were camping on the beach. On July 19, 2013, Carpenter pled guilty to Disorderly Conduct with a Weapon (ARS 13-2904(A) (6),Misdemeanor) and was ordered to pay a fine of $350.00 (Superior Court of Arizona CR-2013-00545) **Exhibit A**.

Summary:

On August 5, 2012 Witness [redacted], accompanied by his family and friends were camping along the river separating Arizona and California. The area is tribal owned and is popular with the local residents. There were several families and groups that totaled a minimum of fifty persons camping along the river. At approximately 12:30 a.m., [redacted] walked to his vehicle to get a bottle of Tylenol for his wife.

Witness [redacted] was wearing a spotlight affixed to his head as he approached his vehicle. He heard a male ask "Is that [redacted] with a head lamp?" [redacted] was wearing a headlamp that illuminated his friends who were standing by the SUV as he walked toward them. The headlamps of the SUV were on which also helped [redacted] recognize his friends. [redacted] walked toward the voice and recognized [redacted], Subject Carpenter, [redacted] and [redacted] recognized [redacted] and [redacted] because they had been employed by the same company. He recognized Subject Carpenter because he had met him on two occasions in the previous month. During those two meetings he and Subject Carpenter had talked about their daughters and sports at length.

Witness [redacted] walked toward [redacted], and [redacted] who were standing on the driver's side of the SUV. Subject Carpenter was standing next to the open right front passenger door. Carpenter began shooting his rifle toward the water where children and campers were playing. The camp was thirty feet from where the shots were hitting the water.

Witness [redacted] asked Subject Carpenter if he could stop shooting close to the river because his kids were down by the beach. Carpenter became upset and asked [redacted] if he was going to cry about him shooting. Carpenter, while holding the rifle, told [redacted] "You're really going to tell me what to do?" as he shot again.

Subject Carpenter said "You're going to tell me not to do that?" as he shot several more rounds toward the beach. The four males entered the SUV. Witness [redacted], hid behind his vehicle and saw the SUV drive south away from the beach. Several seconds passed when [redacted] heard approximately 15 rounds being fired from a large caliber rifle. The shots came from the area where the SUV had driven. [redacted] was in fear for his life and that of his children because he did not know in what direction the second volley of shots had been fired.

Witness [redacted] who was still hiding behind his car was joined by Witness [redacted] and Witness [redacted]. After hearing the second volley of shots, Witness [redacted] called the police via 911 and told them what had happened. At 1:07 a.m. the Fort Mojave Police Department received a 911 call describing the incident **(Exhibit B)**. In the call, [redacted] named the four males in the SUV and gave possible destinations of a house on Border Lane and Quail Run. Carpenter's [redacted] lives on Border Lane while [redacted] lives on Quail Run.

At 1:23 a.m. Officer [redacted] of the Tribal Police Department conducted a traffic stop of the SUV described by Witness [redacted] on Green Valley and King Street. The SUV was travelling south alongside Dike Road at a high rate of speed prior to being stopped.

Tribal Police Officer [redacted] identified [redacted] as the driver, Subject Carpenter was seated in the right front passenger seat, [redacted] was seated in the right rear passenger seat, and [redacted] was seated directly behind the driver.

Inside the SUV, officers recovered a fully loaded semi-automatic, black, 40 caliber, handgun between the right front passenger seat and the passenger door. There was an additional full magazine found on top of the handgun. An AK-47 with a folding stock, Mossberg 12 gauge shotgun, and Mossberg .22 caliber long rifle were recovered from the rear of the SUV. The AK-47 had a black banana magazine with 8 live rounds.

Two live rounds were stuck inside the AK-47 and were recovered. Several expended rounds from the shotgun were recovered from inside the SUV. In addition, officers recovered a spent 7.62 caliber casing, a spent .22 caliber casing, and an empty .22 caliber magazine from the rear of the SUV. See Police Report and supplemental reports **(Exhibit C)**.

As Officer [redacted] was searching the vehicle he noticed the vehicle smelled of burnt gunpowder. He also noticed that Subject Carpenter appeared intoxicated, smelled of alcohol, had slurred speech, and bloodshot eyes. The males were subsequently arrested and transported to the Tribal Police Station to be booked. Carpenter was cooperative with officers until he was told he was being arrested. While in the patrol vehicle he began yelling that the arrest was bullshit and that he did not know anything about guns. He repeated this several times during the transport. When they arrived at the station, Carpenter began to mimic the officers as he was being booked.

The witnesses corroborated Witness [redacted] account of the incident and told police they had heard several shots being fired toward their campsite which was thirty to fifty yards from the SUV and an additional volley of gunshots being fired from the SUV as it drove south away from the campsite.

Subject Carpenter and [redacted] were bailed out of the Tribal Police Station by their [redacted] the following morning. Subject Carpenter returned home to California and called Witness [redacted] on August 6, 2012. Carpenter told [redacted] he was sorry for shooting toward the beach and that he had not meant to harm anyone on the beach. He shot as a prank and told [redacted] to please forget what had happened because it could cost him his life. Carpenter told [redacted], "Don't mention this, because it could ruin everything", and "The fact that we had several conversations could incriminate him, destroy everything, and ruin his life." [redacted] believed Carpenter wanted him to drop the charges.

During the detention Subject Carpenter, [redacted], and [redacted] denied being involved in the incident to police officers. Subject Carpenter went on to tell officers he had been picked up by his brother prior to being arrested.

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IAB Note: The distance from Beach #11 on Dike Road to King Street is approximately three miles. The distance from Border Lane to King Street is also approximately three miles.

Subject Carpenter trailed his court date several times and was ordered to be in court on July 19, 2013. He appeared in court on that date and pled guilty to a misdemeanor count of Disorderly Conduct with a Weapon(ARS 13-2904(A) (6),Misdemeanor). He was ordered to pay a fine of $350 and released (Superior Court of Arizona No. CR-2013-00545,) **Exhibit A**.

Sergeant Velasquez using department resources attempted to contact Subject Carpenter for questioning regarding his guilty plea on July 19, 2013. The attempts were negative.

SUBJECT STATEMENT

Subject Christopher Carpenter was interviewed on August 20, 2012 by Internal Affairs Bureau Sergeants Hector Velasquez and Richard Martinez. Subject Carpenter was represented by his attorney Elizabeth Gibbons. The interview was conducted at the Internal Affairs Bureau office in the City of Commerce. The interview was digitally recorded and transcribed. The interview transcripts have been included with this case.

Subject Carpenter was in Mojave Valley, Arizona on August 4, 2012 to celebrate his [redacted] 64th birthday. He arrived early evening. While relaxing at his [redacted] house, Carpenter's [redacted] arrived with friends. [redacted] and his friends left the location en-route to the marina.

Subject Carpenter and his [redacted] drove to the marina. The sun was still out when they arrived at the marina. At the marina, Carpenter saw his [redacted] and several friends on the beach. Carpenter said hello and returned to his [redacted] house. The trip took approximately ten minutes.

Later that evening, [redacted] returned to his [redacted] house and told Subject Carpenter to come with him and his two friends [redacted] to hang out at [redacted] house. Carpenter was unsure of the time, but said it was several hours after returning from the marina. Carpenter left his [redacted] house with the group in a blue Chevy Trail Blazer. [redacted] drove, Subject Carpenter sat in the right front passenger seat, while [redacted] sat in the back seat.

Carpenter said he did not drink an alcoholic beverage that day and was unsure if the other passengers had consumed alcohol. His [redacted] was not intoxicated when he stopped by to pick him up and he did not see any alcoholic beverages in the vehicle.

They drove away from his [redacted] house and turned onto King Street. They were immediately stopped by police and arrested. The officers told Subject Carpenter they were dispatched to the area because someone matching his description had been observed firing a gun while at the beach. Carpenter told the officer he did not know anything about weapons being fired at the beach.

Subject Carpenter was removed from the SUV and placed on the hood of the blue Trail Blazer. As Carpenter was being walked to the patrol vehicle he was asked about weapons in the vehicle. Carpenter said he did not know anything about weapons and had not touched one that day. He told the officer he was a deputy sheriff, but was currently relieved of duty.

Subject Carpenter said while outside of the patrol vehicle he was courteous and complied with the officer's orders. He was subsequently placed in the back seat of the patrol car and driven to the station.

While at the station Subject Carpenter did not want to complain, act unruly, or cause problems so he placed his head down on the table and closed his eyes. He described his behavior as "exceptional" during the booking process.

After being booked, Subject Carpenter was approached by a Tribal Police Sergeant. The Sergeant handcuffed him and took him outside. The sergeant told Carpenter he was a former Los Angeles County Sheriff from Class [redacted] The sergeant asked Carpenter where he worked. Carpenter said he did not want to cause problems and told him where he worked.

> **IAB Note: Subject Carpenter was contacted by Correction Supervisor Officer [redacted] at 6:00 a.m. Officer [redacted] walked outside of the booking area with Carpenter and asked him if he was a Deputy Sheriff. Officer [redacted] told Carpenter he graduated from class [redacted] and had left the department. The contact was cordial and Carpenter was transported to the custody facility of the compound.**

Subject Carpenter has worked as a range master for the Sheriff's Department and is very familiar with firearms. On the evening he was arrested he did not smell anything in the vehicle that would indicate a weapon had recently been fired. He did not notice any firearms in the vehicle.

Subject Carpenter was released from custody on Sunday, August 5, 2012 and drove home to [redacted] because he no longer wanted to be in Mojave Valley. Carpenter called his [redacted] on Monday August 6, 2012 and asked what charges were being filed.

Sergeant Velasquez and Sergeant Martinez asked Subject Carpenter a series of questions regarding his activities on August 5, 2012. Carpenter denied being on Dike Road, in a beach area known as Beach #11, in a blue SUV accompanied by his [redacted] and two friends named [redacted] He denied shooting a weapon on Beach #11 or near a blue SUV.

Subject Carpenter remembered being picked up at his [redacted] house by his [redacted]. He did not remember anyone firing a weapon while at his [redacted] house.

Subject Carpenter denied firing a weapon into the river from a place known as Beach#11 and was not aware of anyone shooting a weapon into the river on that night.

Subject Carpenter used his cell phone [redacted] when he called his [redacted] on Monday, August 6, 2012. He told his [redacted] he is held to a higher standard and if his [redacted] and friends did something they had to "fess up." His [redacted] told Carpenter they had not been to the beach. His [redacted] told him about his friend Witness [redacted] His [redacted] told Carpenter it may have been [redacted] who called police because he had allegedly been down on the beach the night of the shooting. Carpenter directed his [redacted] to contact [redacted] to find out what was going on. He told him not to get involved but to find out because that was his friend.

On Monday or Tuesday, Witness [redacted] called Subject Carpenter. Carpenter told [redacted] he did not know what was going on, but that he was not involved and was not in that area. Carpenter told [redacted] he would never fire a gun where people were camping.

> **IAB Note: Subject Carpenter advised that during the phone call [redacted] had alleged that Carpenter had fired a gun at the beach where his kids had been playing.**

Subject Carpenter told Witness [redacted] if he was naming him in something he had nothing to do with, it was not right. He said he never threatened [redacted] during the phone call. The conversation may have lasted ten minutes. He told [redacted] if he thought Carpenter would do anything like that he was wrong. [redacted] told him his kids were at the marina when the shots were fired. They also talked about their kids and why Carpenter would never do something like that. After that [redacted] stayed quiet.

Subject Carpenter talked to Witness [redacted] a second time (possibly Saturday) to see how things were going and how he was doing. They never talked about the case or guns. Carpenter said he did not recall calling [redacted] more than two times.

WITNESS STATEMENTS

[redacted]

Witness [redacted] was at the Beach #11 campsite with his family and friends, which consisted of [redacted]

Witness [redacted] along with numerous others had spent the afternoon playing in the river water. In the evening they built a campfire and were in the process of going to sleep. [redacted] said he walked to his car to get a bottle of Tylenol when his name was called out. A group of four males were standing outside of a Chevy Trailblazer. [redacted] illuminated the area with a head lamp affixed to his head. The SUV he was approaching also had the headlamps on which helped [redacted] see who he was approaching. He walked over to the group and immediately recognized them as his friends. He had worked with [redacted], and had met Subject Carpenter on previous occasions.

It appeared to Witness [redacted] that [redacted] and Subject Carpenter were intoxicated because of their demeanor. [redacted] and [redacted] were standing by the driver's side door while [redacted] was standing to the rear of the SUV, near the license plate. Witness [redacted] was standing near the rear quarter panel on the driver side of the SUV while Subject Carpenter was standing on the opposite side by the open right front passenger door.

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Witness [redacted] heard four shots from what he recognized to be a small caliber rifle. The shots were coming from the area where Subject Carpenter was standing. Due to the late hour and the lack of lighting, [redacted] could not see the weapon in Carpenter's hands, however, he could clearly see Carpenter. [redacted] could see that [redacted], were not holding a firearm in their hands.

Two shots were fired and Witness [redacted] yelled "Hey tell him to stop shooting that, please stop shooting that, my family is down there." [redacted] was positive it was Subject Carpenter shooting because he replied "Why, what is it, you're going to cry if I keep shooting?" Carpenter's tone of voice appeared angry and sarcastic as he addressed [redacted] He heard another two to three rounds being fired from the area where Subject Carpenter was standing. [redacted] asked again "Would you guys please or, please stop shooting. There's family down there." The four males laughed, entered the SUV, and started to drive away.

Witness [redacted] said as the SUV was driving away, his friend, Witness [redacted] walked toward him. He told [redacted] to get down behind the vehicle because he was afraid more shots were going to be fired. [redacted] and [redacted] waited until the SUV drove away and walked back to the beach area to make sure everyone was okay.

Sergeant Velasquez asked Witness [redacted] to review the report written by Officer [redacted] for accuracy. The officer wrote "Christopher told [redacted], as he was holding the rifle, "You're really going to tell me what to do?" and then shot a round off, and then said, "You're going to tell me to not do that?" [redacted] said he did not recall telling the officer that statement. [redacted] also said he did not say shots were fired from the top of the dike as stated in the report.

On August 6, 2012, Witness [redacted] received a call from [redacted] who told [redacted] that his brother wanted to discuss the incident and requested permission to give him his phone number. On August 6, 2012, at approximately 5:00 p.m., Subject Carpenter told [redacted] he was sorry for the harm that he had put [redacted]' family through. He did not realize that [redacted]' family was on the beach.

Carpenter said he was down there with friends and thought it would be funny to shoot a couple rounds off and to try and get [redacted] to join them. During the phone call Carpenter repeated himself numerous times on how sorry he was and that he never meant to put any children in harm's way. There were five to six calls throughout the day, lasting approximately three hours total, wherein Subject Carpenter repeatedly apologized.

IAB NOTE: Sergeant Reynolds photographed Witness [redacted] telephone which indicated an incoming call from a telephone used by Subject Carpenter at approximately 4:54 p.m. on August 6, 2012. There were other calls on [redacted] phone which indicated he had received calls from [redacted] (Exhibit D).

[redacted]

Witness [redacted] was on the beach with her three children (ages 7,12,14) and a family friend when she saw her [redacted] Witness [redacted], walking to their car to get Tylenol. She saw a car approach and stop next to their car.

Witness [redacted] heard loud noise coming from the area of where Witness [redacted] had walked. Her brother- in-law, Witness [redacted] ran to her side and asked if she heard the gunshots. [redacted] became frightened because two of her children were sleeping in the tent next to her. Her other daughter [redacted] and friend [redacted] were seated on the bank of the beach fishing. [redacted] and [redacted] looked toward her frightened. She told them to stay put and not move because she did not know which way the shots were being fired.

Witness [redacted] and Witness [redacted] walked toward Witness [redacted] who was still standing by their car. [redacted] saw the SUV pull away as she reached [redacted] The SUV was on Dike road when she heard someone in the vehicle say "Shoot over there." or, "Shoot that direction." [redacted] said she was really mad because her children were down by the water. She yelled "don't fucking shoot." The SUV drove away. A short time later [redacted] heard several more gunshots coming from the direction the SUV had driven.

Witness [redacted] did not see who was shooting because it was dark. She was told by Witness [redacted] that the four males were [redacted] and his [redacted] Subject Carpenter. She had met [redacted] because [redacted] worked with them. She had never met Subject Carpenter.

[redacted]

Witness [redacted] was on the beach with Witness [redacted] and his wife Witness [redacted] when he saw Witness [redacted] walking up the beach toward his car. [redacted] saw four males approach [redacted] as he reached the top of the road.

As Witness [redacted] reached the four males he heard their voices rise as if they were agitated. He heard three gunshots hit the river next to their camp. He heard two more shots hit a metal shed across the river. The shots were coming directly from the area where Witness [redacted] saw [redacted] talking to the males. [redacted] was afraid because people swim in the river late at night and he did not know if anyone was in the water. [redacted] said he estimated their camp was thirty feet from where the shots were hitting the water.

Witness [redacted] thought Witness [redacted] might need assistance and started walking up the road. [redacted] saw [redacted] hiding behind his car as the SUV was backing up the road. The occupants of the SUV saw [redacted] and stopped. [redacted] told [redacted], "Hey, you know, what happened?" [redacted] said, "Just get down, get down. You know, they're really drunk and they have a lot of guns."

Witness [redacted] was watching the SUV when it started to drive back towards Witness [redacted] and himself. The SUV stopped and [redacted] could tell the occupants were arguing amongst themselves. The SUV drove back to the top of Dike Road.

Witness [redacted] saw the driver and the right front passenger get out. Ray saw the right front passenger, holding a rifle in his hand. As the two males were arguing with each other, he heard one of them say, "Give me the trigger, give me the trigger [redacted]." The second male said, "No, let's just leave." [redacted] described the right front passenger as having a black tank top with very short hair, possibly black. [redacted] was not positive regarding his description stating it was very dark.

The driver and front passenger got back into the SUV and drove slowly south, away from the beach. Witness [redacted] heard someone inside the truck yelling "Do it, do it." [redacted] heard Witness [redacted] yell "Hey, no, don't do it, there's kids down here." The SUV drove toward the next beach when [redacted] heard 15 rounds being fired from a large caliber weapon.

On August 8, 2012, Witness [redacted] received a Facebook message from Witness [redacted] telling him that [redacted] had called him and asked him to drop the charges against him and his [redacted] [redacted] wanted to know what [redacted] was going to do. [redacted] told [redacted] he would talk to officers if questioned.

Sergeant Velasquez showed [redacted] a series of photos of the four males. He could not positively identify the males in the photos.

[redacted]

Witness [redacted] was sitting at the campsite near their tent. Her two children [redacted] were inside the tent sleeping. [redacted] saw Witness [redacted] Witness [redacted], and Witness [redacted] walking up the beach toward their vehicle. Witness [redacted] had told her she had a headache and needed Tylenol.

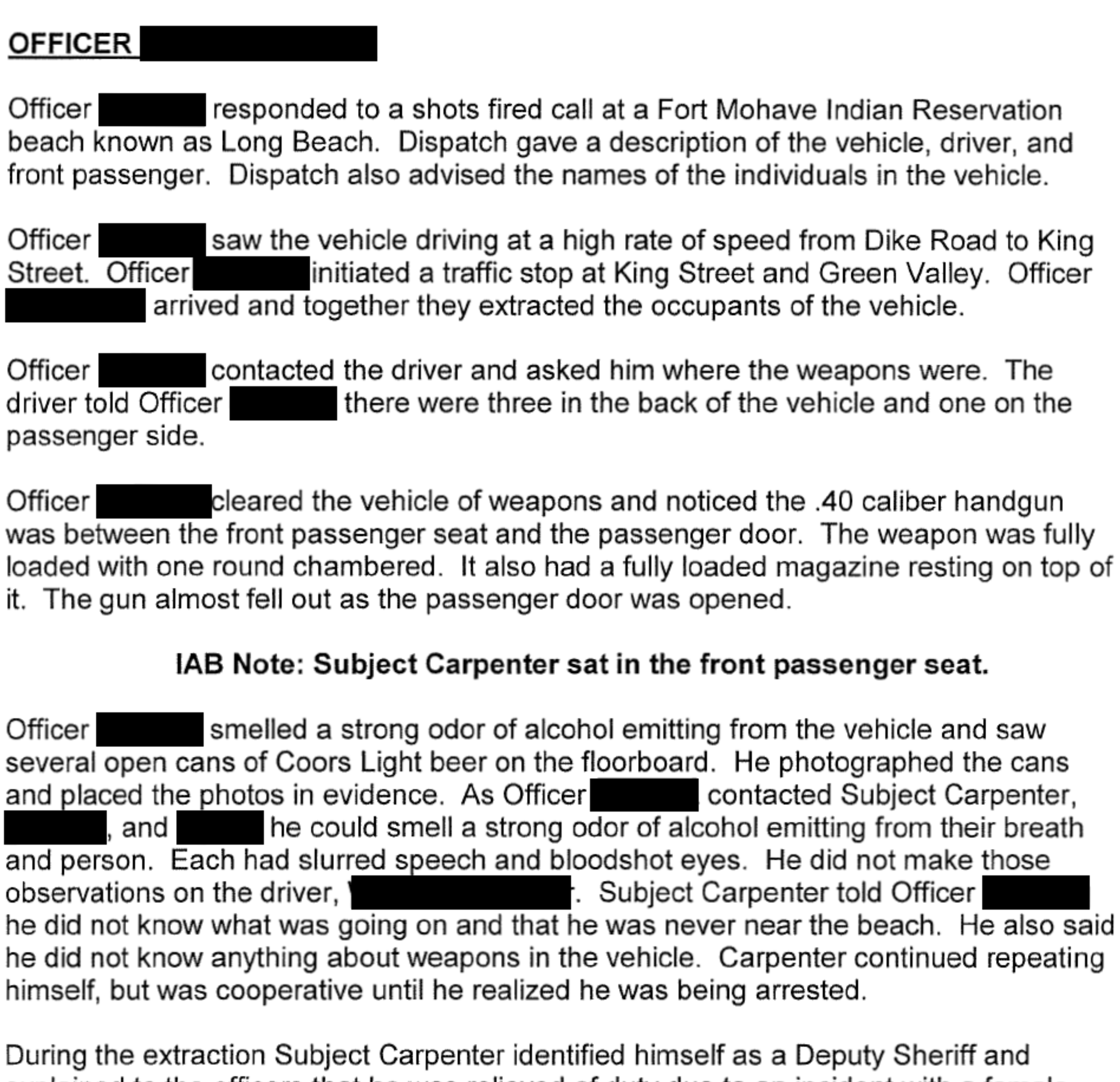
[redacted] heard two volleys of gunshots. She panicked and feared for her children. She then noticed her husband [redacted] standing next to her. She started yelling at him about what was happening.

Witness [redacted] could not see who was in the SUV or who was shooting. She said she was in shock because of the kids and the stories she has heard in the news about people getting killed by stray bullets. She remembered seeing headlights driving away but did not hear anyone saying anything. She also remembered seeing Witness [redacted], Witness [redacted], and Witness [redacted] next to her. Everyone was excited about the shooting and [redacted] said he knew the suspects. [redacted] was angry and excited when he told them he knew the people who had done the shooting. [redacted] called the police and gave the names and descriptions of the males in the SUV.

[redacted]

Witness [redacted] was sitting at the water's edge with her friend [redacted]. They had their backs to the road when she saw headlights. She saw Witness [redacted] walking toward the vehicle that had just driven up. [redacted] could not see who was in the vehicle because her sight was blocked by a bush. She heard [redacted] talking to one of the males. She heard the male voice tell [redacted] "You better run fucker." She immediately heard several gunshots.

Witness [redacted] saw the vehicle driving away from the beach area. As the vehicle drove away, someone in the vehicle shined a very bright light on the camp illuminating the tent. The occupants of the vehicle were talking, but [redacted] could not tell what they were saying. The vehicle continued down the road. It slowed and someone shined the light on the water. She heard numerous gunshots coming from the vehicle again. The vehicle drove away and [redacted] called the police.



MOJAVE TRIBAL POLICE DEPARTMENT STATEMENTS

OFFICER [redacted]

Officer [redacted] responded to a shots fired call at a Fort Mohave Indian Reservation beach known as Long Beach. Dispatch gave a description of the vehicle, driver, and front passenger. Dispatch also advised the names of the individuals in the vehicle.

Officer [redacted] saw the vehicle driving at a high rate of speed from Dike Road to King Street. Officer [redacted] initiated a traffic stop at King Street and Green Valley. Officer [redacted] arrived and together they extracted the occupants of the vehicle.

Officer [redacted] contacted the driver and asked him where the weapons were. The driver told Officer [redacted] there were three in the back of the vehicle and one on the passenger side.

Officer [redacted] cleared the vehicle of weapons and noticed the .40 caliber handgun was between the front passenger seat and the passenger door. The weapon was fully loaded with one round chambered. It also had a fully loaded magazine resting on top of it. The gun almost fell out as the passenger door was opened.

IAB Note: Subject Carpenter sat in the front passenger seat.

Officer [redacted] smelled a strong odor of alcohol emitting from the vehicle and saw several open cans of Coors Light beer on the floorboard. He photographed the cans and placed the photos in evidence. As Officer [redacted] contacted Subject Carpenter, [redacted], and [redacted] he could smell a strong odor of alcohol emitting from their breath and person. Each had slurred speech and bloodshot eyes. He did not make those observations on the driver, [redacted]. Subject Carpenter told Officer [redacted] he did not know what was going on and that he was never near the beach. He also said he did not know anything about weapons in the vehicle. Carpenter continued repeating himself, but was cooperative until he realized he was being arrested.

During the extraction Subject Carpenter identified himself as a Deputy Sheriff and explained to the officers that he was relieved of duty due to an incident with a female deputy. Carpenter told the officers he did not have his gun and badge because he was on administrative leave. He also told the officers he had a restraining order due to that incident. A check via dispatch revealed no restraining order.

Subject Carpenter was placed in the patrol vehicle and transported to the station. While in the car he started yelling he did not know what was going on and that the arrest was bullshit.

As they reached the station his demeanor remained the same yelling they had not done anything wrong. Subject Carpenter said "Let's hurry up and get this over with. I'll do your job for you." Carpenter began mimicking Officer [redacted] by pretending he was writing the report saying "I whatever the hell your officer's name of this whatever, Mojave Tribe, got this call you know." He was ranting in a drunken slur.

Subject Carpenter was escorted to a correction officer for booking. Officer [redacted] said he would be calm one minute then change his demeanor and blurt out "I'm cool, I'm cool, but I don't know about that guy (referring to [redacted]), because he's treating me like I'm dirt. I don't see why he's treating me like dirt. I think this is fucking bullshit."

The corrections officer would tell Carpenter to relax and he would relax. Minutes later he would begin ranting again. Carpenter was subsequently booked and transported to the jail facility.

Officer [redacted] explained there were no casings recovered from the beach because of the amount of sand, foot traffic, wind, and manpower available. He did not perform field sobriety tests (FST) on the passengers, nor the driver. He also did not perform a gunshot residue (GSR) test on the males due to not having any kits at the station and the technician not being available. A field show up was not performed either.

OFFICER [redacted]

Officer [redacted] was the assisting unit on the shots fired call. He called out the right front passenger who was Subject Carpenter. Carpenter complied with orders and was placed in the patrol vehicle. Officer [redacted] did not notice an alcoholic smell on Carpenter because he was focused on getting the suspects out of the vehicle safely.

During the booking process he noticed a change in Subject Carpenter's demeanor. After hearing the charges against him, Carpenter became very disrespectful towards the officers.

Officer [redacted] felt Subject Carpenter was demeaning his agency saying, "You guys are just Tribal Police Officers you know." "Who are you? You guys are just Tribal Police Officers." Officer [redacted] limited his contact with Carpenter to the booking.

CORRECTION OFFICER [redacted]

Witness [redacted] was interviewed by Internal Affairs Sergeants Hector Velasquez and Richard Martinez on October 2, 2012. The interview was digitally recorded and transcribed. The interview transcripts have been included with this case.

Witness [redacted] started his shift at 6:00 a.m. He was told during briefing that a Los Angeles County Sheriff had been arrested and was being processed. He walked to the booking area to have a conversation with Subject Carpenter. Carpenter had bloodshot eyes, was unshaven, and smelled of alcohol. Carpenter was cooperative and did not appear agitated.

Witness [redacted] walked outside with Subject Carpenter, but could not recall if Carpenter was handcuffed at the time. Carpenter did not raise his hands or appear defensive at any time during the conversation. Carpenter did not raise his voice or talk negatively about the Tribal Police Department.

WITNESS STATEMENTS

[redacted]

Witness [redacted] was interviewed by Internal Affairs Sergeants Hector Velasquez and Richard Martinez on October 2, 2012. The interview was digitally recorded and transcribed. The interview transcripts have been included with this case.

Witness [redacted] is Subject Carpenters' brother and was driving the blue SUV when it was detained by the Mohave Tribal Police Department on August 5, 2012.

Witness [redacted] said on August 4, 2012 he spent the day with his girlfriend, kids, and friends. They were at a marina called First Beach. Access to the beach is limited to those who have a membership card. [redacted] was there for the better part of the day and was joined later by his father and brother Subject Carpenter. Witness [redacted] was also there with other friends.

Witness [redacted] left the marina and went to nap at his [redacted] house for a few hours. He later met [redacted] and decided to drive to his [redacted] house to pick up [redacted] guns. [redacted] asked Subject Carpenter if he was going to join them and go to [redacted] house. Subject Carpenter agreed and left with them. They loaded up the guns and entered Witness [redacted] girlfriends blue SUV. They were stopped by police within a mile of their [redacted] house.

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Witness [redacted] said the guns had been at his [redacted] house for four days and they had decided to take them back to [redacted] house. [redacted] said he shot the nine millimeter in his [redacted] backyard, but that was after coming from the marina. He also said his [redacted] was inside the house when he shot the gun. Witness [redacted] said he, his [redacted], and his friends never went to Beach #11 after leaving the marina in the afternoon.

After their arrest, Witness [redacted] said his [redacted] left to Los Angeles. He talked to him on the telephone to let him know his court date. A few days later, Witness [redacted] stopped by [redacted] house and tried to talk, but the conversation did not make sense to [redacted]. He remembered giving [redacted] Subject Carpenter's phone number, but was not sure if he called.

[redacted]

Witness [redacted] was interviewed by Internal Affairs Sergeants Hector Velasquez and Richard Martinez on October 2, 2012. The interview was digitally recorded and transcribed. The interview transcripts have been included with this case.

Witness [redacted] is the subject's [redacted] and lives in Mohave Valley, Arizona. Mr. [redacted] said his [redacted], Christopher Carpenter, had driven from Los Angeles to celebrate Mr. [redacted] birthday. His other [redacted], [redacted] was there with his [redacted], friends, and kids.

They all drank a few beers in the afternoon and eventually everyone left. Subject Carpenter stayed in the trailer and Mr. [redacted] retired to his room at approximately 9:00 p.m. Subject Carpenter stayed in the dining room watching television. Mr. [redacted] said he and Subject Carpenter never left the trailer that day. They sat inside, drank some beer, and talked about fishing before he went to bed at 9:00 p.m.

Mr. [redacted] said he went to bed and woke up the next morning when he received a telephone call from the boys advising him they had been arrested. Subject Carpenter explained to his [redacted] that his [redacted] and friends had been at the beach in the evening harassing another friend named [redacted] They left the beach and stopped by Mr. [redacted] house to pick up Subject Carpenter. They had been arrested as they left his house.

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[redacted]

Witness [redacted] was interviewed by Internal Affairs Sergeants Hector Velasquez and Richard Martinez on October 2, 2012. The interview was digitally recorded and transcribed. The interview transcripts have been included with this case.

Sergeant Velasquez drove to Witness [redacted] address to contact him. He appeared startled and told Sergeant Velasquez he was in a hurry and had to leave. Sergeant Velasquez told him he had a few questions and would not take up much time. [redacted] reluctantly agreed. [redacted] said he was very drunk on the night of the incident and had blacked out. He remembered being at the marina all day drinking and then getting arrested later in the evening.

[redacted]

Sergeant Velasquez attempted to contact Witness [redacted] at his residence. Sergeant Velasquez was told by [redacted] wife he had left and would not return until late at night. She used her cell phone to call him. Sergeant Velasquez spoke with someone who identified himself as [redacted] He said he was at work and would not return home until after midnight. He refused to give his work address or phone number and said he would call Sergeant Velasquez when he was available because he worked a lot of hours.

Sergeant Velasquez left his business card with [redacted] wife. On October 30, 2013, Sergeant Velasquez telephoned the residence of Witness [redacted] There was no answer and a message was left. Sergeant Velasquez also mailed a letter to the residence of Witness [redacted] requesting an interview. At the writing of this report, Sergeant Velasquez had not received confirmation from Witness [redacted].



County of Los Angeles
Sheriff's Department Headquarters
4700 Ramona Boulevard
Monterey Park, California 91754-2169



Leroy D. Baca, Sheriff

Sgt. Trent Denison at Internal Affairs Bureau attempted to serve letter on Wednesday, May 15, 2013, but the employee was not home.

This letter was sent to the employee via certified mail on Thursday, May 16, 2013.

This letter was also sent via U.S. mail with postage fully paid to the last known address of employee on Thursday, May 16, 2013.

May 15, 2013

Deputy Christopher Carpenter [redacted]

Dear Deputy Carpenter:

Pursuant to Rule 18.01 of the Los Angeles County Civil Service Rules, you are hereby notified that it is the intention of the Sheriff's Department to suspend you without pay from your position of Deputy Sheriff, Item No. 2708A, with this Department, for up to thirty (30) days beyond judgement of a criminal charge pending against you.

The investigation being conducted under File Number IAB IV2317829 may result in further administrative proceedings.

An investigation was conducted by Fort Mojave Tribal Police Department. On May 2, 2013, as a result of this investigation, one (1) Felony count was filed against you in Superior Court of the State of Arizona, Felony Indictment, Case #CR-2013-00545. The complaint states as follows:

****COUNT 1****

> On or about the 5th day of August, 2012, in the vicinity of Dike Road near Beach #11, Mohave Valley, Mohave County, Arizona, said Defendant, CHRISTOPHER JAMES CARPENTER, committed disorderly conduct while recklessly handling, displaying or discharging a deadly weapon or dangerous instrument, all in violation of A.R.S. §§ 13-2904(A)(6), 13-701, 13-702, 13-704, and 13-801, a Class 6 Felony.

You may respond to the intended action orally or in writing. In the event that you choose to respond orally to these charges, you have already been scheduled to meet with Chief William McSweeney on June 6, 2013 at 0930 hours, in his office, which is located at 4700 Ramona Boulevard, Monterey Park, California 91754. If you are unable to appear at the scheduled time and wish to schedule some other time *prior* to June 6, 2013, for your oral response, please call Chief McSweeney's secretary at [redacted] for an appointment.

If you choose to respond in writing, please call Chief McSweeney's secretary to cancel your scheduled appointment, and send your response to the facts contained in this letter to Chief McSweeney's office *by no later than* June 6, 2013.

Pursuant to Rule 16.01 of the Los Angeles County Civil Service Rules, effective immediately, you are on paid administrative leave which will continue during the fifteen (15) business days you have to respond to the intended action or until the conclusion of your pre-suspension hearing.

Failure to respond to this Letter of Intent within fifteen (15) business days will be considered a waiver of your right to respond and will result in the imposition of the suspension indicated herein.

The decision to proceed with this action was based solely upon the criminal charges enumerated in this letter. There are no additional materials for review. Should you have any questions regarding this action, you may contact the Internal Affairs Bureau at (323) 890-5300.

The Sheriff's Department reserves the right to amend and/or add to this letter.

Sincerely,

LEROY D. BACA, SHERIFF

Alicia E Ault

Alicia E. Ault, Captain
Internal Affairs Bureau

AEA:CMJ:cj

c: Advocacy Unit
Employee Relations Unit
Chief William McSweeney
Internal Affairs Bureau

Office of Independent Review (OIR)
(IAB #2317829)